

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01  
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07  
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 PA-01 XMB-02  
/141 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/FSE:DCJETT  
APPROVED BY EB/FSE RRMARTIN  
EA/ANP - T.WADJA (DRAFT)  
DOE/IA - J.TREAT (DRAFT)  
EB/FSE - D.HART

-----053785 260204Z /63

R 252143Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PERTH  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:ENRG, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA'S NORTHWEST SHELF NATURAL GAS PROJECT

REF: CANBERRA 2953

1. CONTRARY TO EMBASSY'S IMPRESSION, NO RPT NO APPLICATION  
TO IMPORT LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) TO THE U.S. FROM  
AUSTRALIA IS PENDING BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE).  
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AN OFFICIAL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS TOLD DEPARTMENT THAT  
FEASIBILITY STUDY AND SOLICITATION OF PURCHASERS ARE UNDER-  
WAY BUT HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO SEE ANY CONTRACT SIGNED BE-  
FORE THE END OF THE YEAR. GIVEN THE WORK THAT REMAINS TO  
BE DONE HE ESTIMATED A MINIMUM OF 18 MONTHS BEFORE ANY IM-  
PORT APPLICATION IS FILED WITH DOE.  
2. THE PROCESS FOR CHOOSING A WEST COAST LNG TERMINAL SITE

FOR THE PACIFIC-INDONESIA PROJECT CONTINUES. THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THIS TERMINAL WOULD BE EXPANDED TO TAKE AUSTRALIAN LNG OR ANOTHER FACILITY BUILT HAS NOT YET BEEN ADDRESSED. THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION(CPUC) IS REQUIRED TO MAKE ITS RECOMMENDATION BY THE END OF JULY. DOE HAS APPROVED THE OXNARD SITE BUT STATED THAT THIS DOES NOT PREEMPT SELECTION OF ANOTHER SITE AND WILL WORK WITH THE STATE IN REACHING A JOINTLY ACCEPTABLE DECISION.

CALIFORNIA LAW PRECLUDES THE OXNARD SITE BECAUSE THE POPULATION DENSITY IS TOO GREAT.

3. AN ALTERNATIVE SITE AT POINT CONCEPTION HAS BEEN UNDER STUDY. THE POINT CONCEPTION SITE IS ALSO OPPOSED BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND NEIGHBORING LANDOWNERS WHO MAY CHALLENGE ANY CPUC DECISION IN FAVOR OF THIS ALTERNATIVE. WHILE JUDICIAL REVIEW OR LEGISLATIVE ACTION COULD CAUSE FURTHER DELAYS, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS HOPES FINAL APPROVAL CAN BE OBTAINED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

4. DELAYS IN REACHING DECISIONS ON LNG IMPORT APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT IN THE PAST. THIS HAS BEEN DUE TO COMPLEX LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROCEDURES AND ALSO BECAUSE MANY OF THE PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES ARE BEING ADDRESSED FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO SPEED UP THE PROCESS FOR THE LATER IMPORT APPLICATIONS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATURAL GAS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DCJETT  
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**Film Number:** D780177-0779  
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**Message ID:** 0c66bca7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 CANBERRA 2953  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**SAS ID:** 2852572  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AUSTRALIA'S NORTHWEST SHELF NATURAL GAS PROJECT  
**TAGS:** ENRG, AS  
**To:** CANBERRA  
**Type:** TE  
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